

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 XMB-02 AID-05 EB-08 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6589

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5588

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT HUMAN RIGHTS; AMBASSADOR CHATS WITH CAPT. ALLARA

1. I HAD PROMISED FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES I WOULD CONTACT HIM IMMEDIATELY ON MY RETURN FROM A FIVE DAY CONSULTATION TRIP TO DEPT. I RAN INTO MONTES AT NOON-DAY RECEPTION ON MON (JULY 17). HE SUGGESTED I TALK TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLARA AS HE (MONTES) WAS DEPARTING FOR EUROPE THAT AFTERNOON.
2. I MET WITH ALLARA AND NORTH AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, ESPECHE GIL, AT FOREIGN OFFICE YESTERDAY (WED, JULY 19) AT 11:00 HRS. SALIENT POINTS OF CONVERSATION FOLLOW:
3. I STRESSED TO ALLARA AND ESPECHE GIL OF USG INTEREST IN MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GOA. I SUGGESTED TO ALLARA IT SEEMED IT WOULD BE IN BEST INTEREST OF GOA IF IAHCRC VISITED ARGENTINA. HE AGREED BUT STATED SOME OF QUESTIONS PROPOUNDED BY IAHCRC WERE OFFENSIVE AND UNREALISTIC. HE SAID IN HIS OPINION IAHCRC COMPLETELY IGNORED FACT ARGENTINA WAS A SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY.
4. IT WAS APPARENT ALLARA WAS ANNOYED AND WAS STILL SMARTING FROM HIS RECENT VISIT TO STATE DEPT. HE STATED HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE UNDER SECRETARY WAS A DISMAL FAILURE. I REMINDED HIM THAT IF IAHCRC FAILED TO VISIT ARGENTINA, A STRONG, NEGATIVE REPORT WOULD PROBABLY ENSUE FROM THAT COMMISSION. I
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SUGGESTED REPORT MIGHT BE LESS NEGATIVE IF IAHCRC WERE PERMITTED TO SEE CONDITIONS FOR THEMSELVES ON A FIRST HAND BASIS. AGAIN, HE CONCURRED WITH THIS PREMISE AND SAID HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT VIDLEA. HE INDICATED IAHCRC PROBABLY WOULD BE VISITING ARGENTINA BUT TIMING WAS UNKNOWN. AGAIN, I REMINDED HIM OF TIME BEING OF THE ESSENCE.

5. THE USUAL BOUNCY NAVY CAPTAIN SEEMED TENSE AND FRUSTRATED WHEN HE SAID "I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW USG CAN IMPLEMENT HUMPHREY-KENNEDY BILL AND HARKINS BILL BEFORE THEY BECOME LAW." HE LOOKED AT ME AND LOUDLY PROCLAIMED "YOU HAVE BEEN A JUDGE AND LAWYER SO PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME HOW USG CAN CLOTHE ITSELF WITH LAWS THAT ARE NON-EXISTANT, USE THESE LAWS TO OUR DETRIMENT AND THEN YOU KEEP TELLING US YOU ARE OUR FRIENDS".

6. RECOGNIZING ALLARA'S FRUSTRATION, I RETURNED TO IAHRCS POSSIBLE VISIT. ALLARA SAID HIS OFFICE WOULD SOON BE MAKING AN EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF IAHRCS.

7. ALLARA REACHED OVER AND HANDED ME A COPY OF LA NACION. HE POINTED TO A FRONT PAGE STORY OF EXIM BANK REJECTING GOA'S LOAN APPLICATION FOR A HYDRO-ELETRIC PROJECT AND PURCHASE OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. HE THEN REPEATED "WHAT DOES BUILDING A DAM AND SUPPLYING AIRCRAFT TO A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE HAVE TO DO WITH HUMAN RIGHTS?". HE SAID HE FEARED THESE UNTIMELY ACTIONS BY EXIM BANK WOULD PRECIPITATE A NATIONWIDE ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT.

8. NEXT TOPIC DISCUSSED BY ALLARA WAS THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT USG AND ARGENTINA. HE SAID IT APPEARED USG HAD BREACHED THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. THE FOREIGN OFFICE CONCERN WAS WHAT TO DO WITH US MILGP ON OCTOBER 1. HE FELT THE ULTIMATE ANSWER WAS TO SEND MILGP HOME. I REMINDED ALLARA HIS TUNES SOUNDED MOST PESSIMISTIC. I SUGGESTED POSITIVE STRIDES COULD STILL BE MADE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30. HE AGREED AND SAID THE FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO GET IAHRCS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ARGENTINA.

9. I THEN INQUIRED ABOUT MASSERA'S PROPOSED US VISIT. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD HEARD MASSERA WAS ENTERING BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL ON NOVEMBER 27. HE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT. HE INFORMED ME HE WAS HAVING LUNCH WITH MASSERA AND WOULD GET THE DETAILS. HE PROMISED TO KEEP ME INFORMED.

10. COMMENT: SINCE MY CHAT WITH ALLARA, ADMIRAL LUCHETTI, A MASSERA CONFIDANT, CAME TO MY OFFICE. HE EXPLAINED MASSERA'S HOSPITAL APPOINTMENT WAS A COVER AND WAS MEANS BEING USED TO VISIT THE US. LUCHETTI EXPLAINED MASSERA WAS CANCELLING HIS US TRIP. (SEPTEL FOLLOWS.)

11. IT SEEMS FOREIGN OFFICE CONTINUES TO BE OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE EXECUTIVE. IT HAS BEEN APPARENT TO ME THAT FOREIGN OFFICE IS VERY DEFINITELY FLYING THE MASSERA COLORS. FOR THAT REASON PRESIDENT VIDELA AND GENERAL VIOLA DO NOT MAKE THE FOREIGN OFFICE PRIVY TO THEIR CONTACTS WITH US EMBASSY.

CASTRO

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